

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2010 at Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	Alan Godfrey (Treasurer)	Gresham's School	714503
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & Larners of Holt	712244
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Alan Godfrey (Treasurer), Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann (Town Clerk), Joshua Dyball, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Sarah Pettegrew, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meeds. Sarah Pettegrew was welcomed to the meeting as a new member.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Stephen Davies, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Carol Pennington.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: Despite the feedback from the Chamber Sophie Jewry has published a new guide covering Holt and Sheringham which will be published yearly. Reference to the Chamber of Trade has been removed. As agreed a cheque for £50 has been sent to Lara Williamson (Area Partnership) towards the costs of the Simply Outstanding event.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Alan produced the first month's figures for the new year which showed total income of £1,920.08 and expenditure of £418 which included secretarial costs, website expenses and the renewal of the Lottery Licence. This gives a current year surplus of £1,502.08 and a closing balance of £3,582.86. Fifty-two invoices have been sent out for the new year and thirty-six payments have already been received at the new rates – 21 at £45 and 15 at £65.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Although Cottage Collectables are not renewing, Pork Pies Ltd, The Saddlery, Ebony, The Pigs and The King's Head have joined as new members and several other traders have expressed an interest in joining.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Bad weather – a Town Council working party will be set up to formulate a 'winter working plan.' Only one week remains during which objectors to the Thornage Road Car Park can call for a judicial review. Steady progress is being made on the Church Street toilets project and it is hoped that the conveyance to the Town Council will soon be completed. A debate took place on the proposal whereby NCC will replace several lighting columns in the town. As light columns are replaced they will be painted black but some discussion took place on the possibility of conservation style lighting – but these would be very expensive and funding is unlikely to be available at present. It has, however, been agreed that some of the lighting columns would be switched off during the night. It was not felt by the police that this would lead to an increase in crime figures. A Spring litter pick will take place on 22 March from 6 pm. An application has been made by Holt Area

Partnership for a grant so that a sign could be placed at Holt Station to encourage passengers to come into the town.

HOLT SUMMER FESTIVAL: (25 – 31 July 2010) After a successful launch at Gresham's School on 11 February the programme is firming up well. Based round two main themes – 'anniversaries' and 'guitar and plucked instruments', the Festival will open with Michael Pennington's acclaimed one-man show and close with 'Blues in the Wood' headlining The Blues Band. Preliminary details of the programme and a leaflet about the 'Friends Scheme' will appear in The Chronicle. Full details (including how to win a car) appear on the Festival website.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK: Graham is in discussions with quantity surveyors and engineers and hopes to be able to put out details for tender in the near future.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – fundraising: Alison's fundraising activities are being divided between committee members. The committee is urgently seeking new blood who can shadow this year's preparations and act as committee members next year.

HOLT PLANNING GROUP: Nothing more to report at present.

HOLT SOCIETY AND THE CHAMBER WORKING TOGETHER ON HOLT'S APPEARANCE: John had received a letter from Mary Alexander asking if we would be willing to work with the Society on their aims to reduce signage and to preserve its Georgian image. John would ask Mary Alexander if she would be willing to discuss this with members further at the Chamber AGM on 24 March 2010.

WEBSITE PROGRESS: Discussion took place initially on up-dating the Chamber's logo and changing its name to "Holt Chamber of Trade". The name change was agreed and Joshua aims to come up with three suggestions for a new logo at the AGM. It is proposed that trader's details on the website should include: business name, tel no, website address and nature of business. A link to members' websites would also be provided. Joshua is looking for good quality photographs of Holt to put into a gallery. Discussion also took place on the format and control of the blog and forum and relevant links to other organizations, eg Holt Town Council, Summer Festival etc.

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: The Saddlery has now opened and already seems to be thriving, Harvey's Travel Agent is to house a dress shop and Bags Plus is closing down due to the owner's retirement. A new owner has taken over the sandwich shop.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Lynda Mossman asked if it would be possible for the Chamber to fund refurbishment of the plants in **planters** in 'the Yards' in addition to those in the main High Street. Unfortunately funds did not allow for this at present. Mark Humberstone reminded those present that the '**Byfords Bash**' would be on 12 May 2010. The sheet 'What does the Chamber do for you?' has been up-dated and re-printed. John had been to the opening of The Health Hut (Gym) at the **Holt Youth Project** and had been very impressed by the work they are doing for the young people in Holt. As yet no-one has come forward to take over as **Chairman**.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 24 March and there will be no general meeting in April 2010.